



# St Matthew's Catholic Parish



(Established 1831)

12 Tebbutt Street, Windsor, NSW 2756

Telephone: (02) 4577 3073

## Our Parish Mission Statement:

*We believe and live out the mission of Jesus Christ as a community of worship and faith shared in service.*

### **Parish Team:**

Parish Priest: *Fr Ranillo Creta*  
Sacramental Coordinator: *Ms Cita Adams*  
Parish Secretary: *Ms Judy Rigg*  
Parish email: [windsor@parracatholic.org](mailto:windsor@parracatholic.org)  
[www.stmatthewswindsor.org.au](http://www.stmatthewswindsor.org.au)  
*Office hours next week 9.30am to 4pm  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday*

### **Schools:**

*St Matthew's Primary* Phone: 4560 2300  
Principal: Mr Ben Ticehurst  
*Chisholm Catholic Primary* Phone: 4573 3200  
Principal: Mr Michael Mifsud  
*Bede Polding College* Phone: 4560 2900  
Principal: Mr Greg Malone

### **Masses:**

#### Next Weekend:

Sat. Vigil 6.00pm  
Sun. 7.30am, 9.00am and 5.00pm

#### Weekday Masses:

Monday to Saturday 9.00am

#### Reconciliation:

Saturday 9.30am

#### Sodality of Our Lady (in hall):

Every Monday 3.30pm to 4.30pm (children)

#### Pilgrim Rosary (in hall):

Every Tuesday 7pm

#### Legion of Mary (in hall):

Every Wednesday 6pm (youth)  
Every Thursday 7pm (adult)

#### Divine Mercy Prayer Group (in hall):

Every second Saturday 10am

#### Baptisms:

1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays each month.

#### Marriages:

By appointment

## *Second Sunday of Advent Year C*

*8th December, 2024*




The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.) The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasises that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favour.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it. When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.


### **LIVING THE GOSPEL – MAKE WAY!**

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

**PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE CHURCH IF YOU  
ARE FEELING UNWELL.**


<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b>	O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.	
<b>FIRST READING:</b>	Baruch 5 : 1-9 <i>Jerusalem – God will show you splendour.</i>	
<b>RESPONSE:</b>	The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.	
<b>SECOND READING:</b>	Philippians 1 : 3-6, 8-11 <i>Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.</i>	
<b>ACCLAMATION:</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.	
<b>GOSPEL:</b>	Luke 3 : 1-6 <i>All people shall see the salvation of God.</i>	
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b>	Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.	

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

 **Deceased:** Please pray for the recently deceased as well as (Anniversary of George Seguna), Carla Lewis, Jason Vella, Karen Bartolo, Charlie and Grace Vella, Felix and Maree Sammut, Anton and Pavlina Skraban, Mateo and Andriano Scarpin, John Ripa, Nicola Ripa, Antonia Ripa, Jesse Ripa, Bonnie Farrugia, John Mifsud, Philip and Mary Mifsud, Carmelo and Elizabeth Vella, Chris, John, Maryanne Sultana and family.

**Sick:** Please pray for Jimmy Marinas, Marilyn Marinas, Thelma Rays, Joan Dodd, Roza Galea, Roslyn Wright, Grant Leslie, Fely Watkins, Christopher Sales, Maggie Abraham, Kevin Hawkins, Julieta Hawkins, Susitina Makasini, Alya Oyon-Oyon, Riley Oyon-Oyon and Hank Eggers.


**MONDAY CLUB LUNCH**

There will be a Monday Club lunch for Christmas this Monday, 9th December at the Richmond Club. If you would like to be a part of the Kris Kringle gift giving, please bring a \$10- gift with you.  No booking is required, just turn up on the day.

**HELPERS NEEDED**

We are looking for people who are willing and able to help sand and paint the pews. We are hoping to refurbish them 2 at a time and it will take place in the Presbytery garage. If you can help with this task, please contact Tony 0488 110 111.


**BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR CATHOLIC CARE'S HOUSES TO HOMES**

This Christmas, will you help homeless mothers and children find a safe place to call home and rebuild their lives? Your kind-hearted gift and prayers will help Catholic Care Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains provide homeless mothers and their children with practical and emotional support, and a safe haven to call home. If you haven't had the chance to donate, there are still envelopes at the back of the Church. 

**CALENDARS FOR SALE**

We have 2025 Columban calendars and 2024 Sisters of St Joseph calendars available for sale in the Parish Office. Only \$10- each. They make a great Christmas gift or stocking filler. Please contact the office 45773073 if you would like to buy one (or more).

**HOUSEKEEPING FOR THE VOTIVE CANDLE STAND**

We would like to request that parishioners please use the lighters instead of the matches when possible. If you do need to use the matches, it would be appreciated that you do not drop them (especially if lit) through the glass candle holder into the container below. This causes a number of problems with the glass and the container. We would also request that you do not use a lit candle to light another candle. This is a fire hazard. Please note, that Children are welcome to light a candle but do need adult supervision. Your assistance with these requests are appreciated. 

<b>ROSTERS: 14TH/15TH DECEMBER, 2024</b>		<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B</b>		
<b>Church Cleaning:</b> K. and G. Moffitt		<b>Sacristy:</b> M. Roth and C. Vella.		
<b>Masses:</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>7.30am</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>5.00pm</b>
<b>Commentator:</b>	T. Ripa	J. Wein	M. Grosvenor	A. Pennings
<b>Reader/s:</b>	H. Sobiesiak	M. Allen	J. Rapa	R. Xerri
<b>Acolyte/Adult Server</b>	T. Jordan	J. Coco	T. Victorino	D. Edgar



# 2024 CHRISTMAS MASSES

## St Matthew's Catholic Church Windsor

### TUESDAY, 24TH DECEMBER: (Christmas Vigil)

6.30pm Open Air Family Mass  
(in St Matthew's School Grounds  
Please bring your own chair/rug)

8.30pm Mass (Church)

### WEDNESDAY, 25TH DECEMBER: (Christmas)

Midnight Mass (Church)

7.30am Mass (Church)

9.00am Mass (Church)



PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE  
**NO** EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

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## RECONCILIATION

### Communal Rite

*St Monica's Richmond*

Wednesday, 18th December 7.00pm



### First Rite

*St. Matthew's Windsor NSW*

Saturday, 7th December: 8.15am and 9.30am.

Saturday, 14th December: 8.15am and 9.30am.

Saturday, 21st December: 8.15am and 9.30am.

**CHRISTMAS MASS VOLUNTEERS - WE NEED YOU**

For Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we are in need of volunteers for all of the different ministries. Please consider helping during one (or more) of the Masses. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated. If you are willing to volunteer, please place your name in the appropriate spot on the sheet at the back of the Church.



**PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will close at 4.30pm on Tuesday, 24th December and reopen at 9.30am on Monday, 6th January. If you have an urgent matter during that time, you will need to speak to Father after Mass.

**DAILY MASS BOOKS**

This year we are again going to purchase Daily Mass Books for any interested parishioner. Cost will be \$26- per book and so that we can order to correct amount, please let the Parish Office know by Monday, 9th December if you would like a Daily Mass book. The order will be placed on Tuesday morning.



**PILGRIMAGE**

Join David and Angeline Wilkes from St Aiden's Parish on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje from April 1st to 9th, 2025. This is their third pilgrimage, and the group will be staying with visionary Mirjana Soldo, guided by her long-time English interpreter, Miki Musa. Fr Neil Bulathsinhala will also be accompanying the group as the Chaplain. Places are limited, so if you feel called to experience the peace of Medjugorje, please contact Angeline Wilkes at 0410 665 306 or visit [saintlytravel.com.au](http://saintlytravel.com.au) for more details

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER - For Pilgrims of Hope**

Let us pray that the coming Church Jubilee Year 2025 strengthens us in our faith; helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**DIOCESAN NEWS**

⇒ **Mount Schoenstatt Advent and Christmas Carols: 14 December**

Let us prepare our hearts together this year with the Advent and Christmas Carols at Mount Schoenstatt (Family Hall - 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa 2745) on Saturday 14th December at 7pm. All children are encouraged to arrive by 6.50pm dressed as angels and shepherds. Flyer and more details can be found on the website: <https://schoenstatt.org.au/>



⇒ **Epiphany Pilgrimage and Fiesta: 2-9 January 2025**

Commit the first fruits of your new year to Christ with the 2025 Epiphany Pilgrimage. Enjoy 7 days of bush-walking, fellowship and prayer as we journey from Emu Plains to the top of the Blue Mountains, experiencing the wonderful hospitality of parish communities along the way. Day 1 is a family-friendly day, with the option for a children's pilgrimage finishing with the Finnies Fiesta at St Finbars, Glenbrook. For more information and to register for all or part of the journey, visit [www.epiphanypilgrimage.org](http://www.epiphanypilgrimage.org)

⇒ **St Paul Feast Day celebration: 18 January**

Feast Mass Saturday will be held at 5.30pm on Saturday, 18th January in St Monica's, Richmond which will be followed by a procession. Other activities on the day include Lady Queen of Peace band, BBQ, food, drinks, rides and chocolate wheel. Come and join in the fun. Mark the date in your diary.

V	S	B	F	Z	K	T	E	U	Q	Y	A	X	R	A
V	M	O	D	E	O	U	Y	K	R	F	W	Z	O	X
K	O	A	N	C	T	B	A	L	E	P	D	H	U	F
X	O	I	T	G	J	R	H	C	P	L	E	N	G	L
S	T	Z	C	N	S	T	D	I	E	F	S	C	H	I
Z	H	C	H	E	P	K	F	B	N	A	E	O	X	P
P	R	E	A	C	H	I	N	G	T	S	R	I	T	I
F	C	L	H	K	H	D	V	D	K	T	T	L	M	S
P	B	A	A	K	A	Y	A	S	F	R	F	C	M	Y
G	R	V	L	M	R	Z	L	L	O	A	F	R	B	W
P	W	E	J	L	F	E	L	M	R	I	I	O	V	X
X	Y	F	P	O	I	Q	E	V	G	G	W	O	J	F
R	A	Q	F	A	J	N	Y	V	I	H	V	K	C	K
Z	Q	L	V	X	R	B	G	N	V	T	W	E	P	J
V	W	Y	S	D	U	E	I	N	E	S	R	D	E	Q

**PREPARE THE WAY WORD SEARCH**

Try to find these words:

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|-----------|----------|
| CALLING   | VOICE    |
| CROOKED   | STRAIGHT |
| VALLEY    | ROUGH    |
| DESERT    | PREPARE  |
| SMOOTH    |          |
| REPENT    |          |
| FORGIVE   |          |
| PREACHING |          |

